YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. J. TATE, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR 1959

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The Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the general sanitary conditions of the area for the year ending 31st December, 1959. The regrettable retirement of Dr. Tate at the end of the year owing to illness and his continuing state of indifferent health necessitates the inclusion of the Annual Statistics of the Medical Officer of Health in my report and I trust the Council accepts this as the most practicable arrangement in the circumstances.

Fortunately there were no outbreaks of infectious diseases or of food poisoning during the year. The usual routine inspections of canteens, shops and restaurants were maintained and advice tendered when necessary. The co-operation of all concerned in this respect is worthy of note.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,
Public Health Inspector.

SEWERAGE

The whole of the district is on main drainage with one sewerage disposal works. The disposal plant has been working normally and the sewerage effluent complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

The district consists of two Parishes, Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower, their respective areas 13,182 and 9,016, a total of 22,198 acres.

Population : 11,450.

Industries : Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, light engineering and furniture manufacture, quarrying and agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births — 145.
Live birth rates per 1,000 population—12.7.
Still-births—6.
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births—39.73.
Total live and still-births—151.
Infant deaths—5.
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total—34.48.
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births—legitimate—34.48.
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illigitimate—Nil.
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births—3.5.
Maternal deaths (including abortion)—Nil.
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births—Nil.

Cause of Death :	Males	Females
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	2	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Malignant neoplasm breast	0	3
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	0
Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	2	0
Malignant neoplasm uterus	0	1
Other malignant neoplasms	7	3
Diabetes	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	9
Coronary disease	11	5
Hypertension with heart disease	2	0
Other heart disease	5	8
Other circulory disease	4	5
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	12	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	7	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1
Hyperplasia and prostrate	3	0
Influenza	2	0
Other diseases	5	6
Motor accidents	0	0
All other accidents	3	0
Suicide	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenam	0	1
Congenital malformation	1	0
TOTAL	77	45

Chief Notifiable Diseases :

Measles	3	Erysipelas	0
Whooping Cough	0	Dysentry	0
Scarlet Fever	2	Paratyphoid	0
Diphtheria	0	Gastric Enteritis	0
Meningitis	0	Puerpural pyrexia	0
Salmonella Infection	0	Meningococcal Infection	0
Poliomeylitis	0		

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases Notified :	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	2	2	4
Non-Respiratory	1	1	2
Deaths :			
Respiratory :	2	0	2
Non-Respiratory :	0	0	0

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low, 4 new cases were notified during the year. All the cases were visited and advised as to isolation pending admission to Sanatoria. The waiting period was of short duration and they were all dealt with expeditiously by the Chest Physician for the area.

Local Health Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946, are carried out by the Brecon County Council and have worked efficiently.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

General Medical : Beck Laboratory, General Hospital, Swansea
Water Supplies : Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.
Milk : Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Hospital Accommodation :

Infectious Diseases. The infectious diseases Hospital is situated at Hill House, Swansea, and is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospital Facilities: General Hospital Facilities are provided for at Swansea General Hospital, Morriston Hospital and the West Glamorgan Hospital at Neath, all of which are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Services: There are two Ambulances stationed in the district and they are under the control of the Breconshire County Councul.

WATER SUPPLY

There are five piped water supplies in the area, four of which are chlorinated. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and every house has its own piped supply, except in the case of a few scattered dwellings such as isolated farms. No water supply in the district is liable to plumbo solvent action. There have been no evidence of any form of contamination. There are no stand pipes supplies.

Appended is a list of bacteriological examinations carried out.

Date	Water Supply	Results
6-1-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
6-1-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
6-1-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
6-1-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
10-2-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
10-2-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
10-2-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
10-2-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
2-3-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
2-3-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
2-3-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
2-3-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory

Date	Water Supply	Results
8-4-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
8-4-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
8-4-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
8-4-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
12-5-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
12-5-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
12-5-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
12-5-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
2-6-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
2-6-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
2-6-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
2-6-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
9-7-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
9-7-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
9-7-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
9-7-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
3-9-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
3-9-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
3-9-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
3-9-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
2-10-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
2-10-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
2-10-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
2-10-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
12-11-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
12-11-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
12-11-59	Colbren	Satisfactory
12-11-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
3-12-59	Colbren	Satitfactory
3-12-59	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
3-12-59	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
3-12-59	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (Housing Public Health Acts)	952
Water Supply	12
Drainage	29
Housing Inspections	118
Infectious Diseases	2
Verminous Premises	0
Factories & Workshops	8

FOOD PREMISES

Butchers	38
Canteens	25
Fishmongers	14
Grocers	101
Fried Fish Shops	8
Schools	1
Bakehouses	2
Miscellaneous Food Visits	10
Food Preparing Premises	88
Refuse Collection & Refuse Disposal	121
Hospitals	2
Sampling Visits :	
Milk	10
Ice Cream	5
Tents, Vans, Sheds	11
Public Conveniences	106
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	13
Slaughterhouses	228
	952

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES

(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year. (Public Health and Housing Acts).	118
(b)	Number of Inspections for the purpose	118

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	5

Action Under Statutory Powers During Year.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. ...	3
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after Service of formal notices	3
(*a*)	By Owners	3
(*b*)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936	0
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in	0
	pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of undertaking given by owners under Section 11	0
(4)	Statutory Notices served under Water Act	0
(5)	Number complied with	0

(*c*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 0

(1) Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of Separate Tenement in underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit. 0

NOTICES SERVED

Under the Housing Act :—

Number of Informal Notices served	0
Number of Informal Notices complied with	0
Number of Formal Notices served	0
Number of Formal Notices complied with	0

Under the Public Health Act :— *

Number of Informal Notices	6
Number of Informal Notices complied with	3
Number of Formal Notices served	3
Number of Formal Notices complied with	3

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Cleansing—both collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour and three collections weekly are made with the exception of the main shopping centre where the collections are carried out daily. The total tonnage collected during the year was 8,504 tons.

DISINFECTION

Four houses were disinfected during the year and which is a reflection on the low incidence of infectious disease in the locality. Fumigation by formalin gas was carried out in these cases and a free supply of liquid disinfectant distributed for the use of householders concerned in washing down the premises, bed clothes, drains, etc.

MILK SUPPLY

The following have been registered as Dealers and Distributors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations :—

Dealers T.T.	4
Dealers Pasteurised	13
Supplementary Pasteurised	2
Supplementary Sterilised	1
Dealers Sterilised	5
Distributors	13

Milk delivery vans were regularly inspected under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and were found to be satisfactorily kept. During the year 18 samples of milk were taken for analysis and of these 5 were from schools. 3 from Dairies and 1 Hospital in the area all of which were reported as being satisfactory. 9 Samples were also reported as being void due to the atmospheric shade temperature being over 65o F.

ICE CREAM

Only three premises are now used in the district for the manufacture of Ice Cream—the greater quantity of this commodity now being sold in prepacked form in shops and received from the large nationally known manufacturers from without the area.

The local ice cream factories are regularly inspected particularly during the summer months and a satisfactory degree of cleanliness is always observed. 10 samples were taken for analysis from these premises with the following results :—

No. of Samples	10
No. in Grade 1	6
No. in Grade 2	3
No. in Grade 3	0
No. in Grade 4	1

It is encouraging to note from these figures that by far the greatest number of samples were placed in Grade 1 and that only 1 was placed in Grade 4.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

A Register of Fried Fish Shops is kept and five premises throughout the area have been registered. Inspections are made during daytime when preparation for the evening's business is carried on also occasional visits are made during the evening. I have no cause to report any serious breach of the regulations.

PRESERVED FOODS

Ten Premises have been registered under the Food & Drugs Act as premises used for the manufacture of preserved foods. These are butchers shops or butchery departments at Co-operative Stores where sausages are made. A separate room is used for the manufacturing process and a high standard of cleanliness is demanded at these premises. The premises including the utensils are inspected and examined thoroughly and every effort is made to inspect these premises at least once a month more often than not during the hours of manufacturing.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

During the year the following slaughterhouses were registered :—

1. Danygraig, Colbren, occupied by Mr. John Jeffreys.
2. Glangiedd, Cwmgiedd, occupied by Mr. T. J. Thomas.

These slaughterhouses are inspected regularly together with all animals slaughtered therein.

MEAT INSPECTION

Inspections were systematically made at the Colbren and Cwmgiedd slaughterhouses and with only two slaughterhouses to cope with and a limited amount of slaughtering it was possible to obtain a 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered during the year. In all 228 visits were made for this purpose and the following is a table of animals inspected.

Animals inspected		Parts condemned Diseases except T.B. & Cysticeri.	Whole Carcases Condemned. All Diseases except Cysticeri.
Beasts	118	27 Parts (Liver) Weight 108 lbs.	Nil
Cows	Nil		
Calves	1		
Sheep	1395		
Pigs	110		

Meat imported into the district is also inspected from time to time.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1953

Applications were received from seven slaughterhousess for a licence to slaughter animals under the above Act and all these were granted.

FOOD PREMISES

Food shops, canteens and restaurants were visited regularly, and the Food Hygiene Regulations were brought to the notice of all persons handling food. Following is a list of food condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption :—

Bacon 182 lbs.; Baked Beans 25 tins; Beef 103 lbs.; Cheese 26 lbs.; Cooked Ham 330½lbs.; Corned Beef 10 tins; Sausages 9 lbs.; Tinned Fruit 477 tins.; Tinned Meat 106 tins; Tinned Milk 18 tins; Tinned Tomatoes 111 tins; Tinned Fish 17 tins; Tinned Vegetables 103 tins; Tinned Puddings 34 tins.

SEWAGE EFFLUENT

Samples of sewage effluent were taken at the Council's sewage works prior to being discharged into the river Tawe, and on these the Public Analyst summarised as follows:—

Sample No. 1. (7th May, 1959). This was a satisfactory effluent. The B.O.D. and the matter in suspension were well under the limit recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

Sample No. 2. (16th July, 1959). This effluent complied with the requirements of the Royal Commission standard for sewage effluents. Most of the organic matter had been oxidised, and its Biological Oxygen Demand of 1.7 parts was below the limit required, namely 2.0 parts per 100,000.

Sample No. 3. (23rd October, 1959). There was rather more nitrogenous matter present than the sample received in July of this year. The nitrate content was not

so high either as in the previous one. Both these differences indicate that oxidition had not proceeded as far as usual. But the effluent complied with both the requirements of the Royal Commission, namely B.O.D. and Suspended matter, not to exceed 2 and 3 parts per 100,000 respectively. This sample complied easily with these requirements.

22nd July, 1959. A sample of effluent was also taken at the Perry Chain Co. Ltd., and was reported upon as follows :

This sample was tested for the presence of traces of the various metals listed, and all were found to be absent with the exception of a small concentration of zinc. The effluent was alkaline in reaction and gave a high pH value of 10.57, showing that the liquor had been completely neutralised. Apart from the absence of toxic metals the outstanding feature of this effluent was the high nitrate content. It is possible that this could give rise to corrosive action on metals with which it came into contact, especially if the liquor should at any time attain an acid reaction. The total saline matter in solution was rather high approximately ten times that normally found in a water. The dilution of this liquor with crude sewage would we believe cause no trouble in the purification plant provided toxic metals especially chromium were eliminated as has occurred in the present sample.

HOUSING

The inspection and repairs of old houses under the Public Health Act and Housing Act was maintained, and in all 118 housing inspections were made and three houses were rendered fit by owners as the result of Informal Notices.

RAINFALL

Rainfall figures for the year :—

January	7·88	ins.
February	·56	ins.
March	5·12	ins.
April	5·88	ins.
May	1·05	ins.
June	5·21	ins.
July	5·91	ins.
August	1·22	ins.
September	·63	ins.
October	7·85	ins.
November	12·06	ins.
December	12·41	ins.
	65.78	ins.

RODENT CONTROL

The work of the Rodent Operator during the year is summarised as follows :—

Sewers	2	Sections
Refuse Tips	10	
River Banks	32	
Premises	641	
Total	685	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector.